

**Draft Animal Welfare Bill 2024**

***Please find suggested responses to the survey below. The survey closes 26 May 2024.***

Complete the survey here: <https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/animal-welfare-draft-bill>

The comment suggestions are just that - suggestions. Please feel free to include or not include them as you see fit. Please feel free to expand on issues which you feel strongly about. Your response will have a stronger impact if you word these responses yourselves, however if you are not able to do that for any reason you can of course copy paste the below.

Please note that not all sections require commentary (questions with no responses below) but feel free to add your own thoughts.

*\*please note that if you select ‘no’ for question 4, the substantive questions will begin at 6 rather than question 7.*

7. STRONGLY DISAGREE

8. NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE

9. DISAGREE

10. The definition of animal must also include cephalopods (without the restriction of scientific purposes) and crustaceans. Explicit reference to animal sentience and the intrinsic value of animal lives must be included in the Principles and Objects of the Act.

11. DISAGREE

12. NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE

13. AGREE

14. STRONGLY AGREE

15. NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE

16. The definition of "adequate food, water and living conditions" (particularly living conditions) must be included in legislation and not left to the Regulations. The phrase is too open to interpretation to be effective.

The ability to prohibit items or activities in future is important but it should not be used in place of prohibitions being included in the legislation. Some examples of items and activities which must be prohibited in the legislation include surgical artificial insemination (used predominantly on racing greyhounds), mulesing, bow hunting, duck hunting, and sow stalls.

The provision relating to mandatory reporting in the greyhound racing industry must be expanded to include those "associated" with the industry and not only those who work in the industry.

17. STRONGLY DISAGREE

18. The criteria for the composition of the AWAC in the Bill is not specific enough to ensure a balanced Committee. The composition must be mandated to ensure specific numbers of people from appropriate areas of expertise such as animal welfare experts, industry representatives, and policy officers.

The establishment of the AWAC should be mandatory under the legislation and not at the Minister's discretion.

19. NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE

20. STRONGLY AGREE

21. STRONGLY AGREE

22. STRONGLY AGREE

23. STRONGLY AGREE

24.

25. AGREE

26. DISAGREE

27. STRONGLY AGREE

28. STRONGLY AGREE

29. STRONGLY AGREE

30. STRONGLY DISAGREE

31. STRONGLY AGREE

32. STRONGLY AGREE

33. Animals who have been seized should not be able to be sold. The options for seized animals should be rehoming or euthanasia, and the latter only in cases where their suffering is such that euthanasia is the kindest option - a decision which should only be made by a veterinary surgeon.

If animals are to be released to an "animal welfare entity" then this term must be clearly defined and the Minister should not have discretion to determine what is or is not an "animal welfare entity". An animal welfare entity should be subject to a licensing and registration process.

34. NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE

35.

36. STRONGLY AGREE

37. The authority to spend money from the fund should not rest solely with the Minister. Criteria for spending this money and/or the involvement of the AWAC would be appropriate.

38. STRONGLY AGREE

39. STRONGLY DISAGREE

40. Such a broad exemption power resting solely on the Minister's discretion is shocking and completely inappropriate. Exemptions should not be granted except in extremely rare circumstances and a legislated application and consideration process must be applied.

41. STRONGLY AGREE

42.

43. Activities such as duck hunting, horse and greyhound racing, and the commercial slaughter of kangaroos must be banned within this legislation.

The Bill does not go far enough to ensure animal welfare in South Australia. An independent office of animal welfare must be established under the legislation.

The Regulations form a critical part of the operation of this legislation and their creation and review must be subject to criteria set out in the Act.